

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3897

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 7874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, PRESIDENT), PFOR, BR, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER VISIT TO BRAZIL--INITIAL REACTION

1. SUMMARY. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER VISIT TO BRAZIL HAS RECEIVED VERY EXTENSIVE AND UNIFORMLY POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE AND POLITICAL COMMENTARY. SOME INITIAL COMMENTARY HAS CHARACTERIZED ANNOUNCEMENT AS TRIUMPH OF BRAZILIAN DIPLOMACY AND REFLECTION OF BETTER US UNDERSTANDING OF "BRAZILIAN REALITY". INITIAL SECULATION ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENT'S DOMESTIC IMPACT FOCUSED ON ITS POTENTIAL FOR ENCOURAGING ACCELERATION OF POLITICAL REFORMS. ONE COMMENTATOR HELD THE GOB'S EARLIER DENUNCIATION OF FOUR AGREEMENTS WITH US WAS TIMED SO ITS IMPACT WOULD BE NEUTRALIZED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT. END SUMMARY

2. SEPTEMBER 23 ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BRAZIL RECEIVED VERY EXTENSIVE AND UNIFORMLY POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE BASED ESSENTIALLY ON BREZEZINSKI PRESS CONFERENCE AND ON RESTROSPECTIVES OF EARLIER VISITS BY US PRESIDENTS--MOST RECENTLY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1960. PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL AS GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA IN 1972 WAS ALSO RECALLED.

3. INITIAL POLITICAL COMMENTARY ALSO UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS CITE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR RESPONDING POSITIVELY THE ANNOUNCEMENT. ARENA LEADERS STRESSED VISIT'S SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS

OF BRAZIL-US RELATIONS AND US RECOGNITION OF BRAZIL'S INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WORLD. MDB SPOKESMEN STRESSED VISIT'S MEANING IN TERMS OF REAFFIRMATION OF PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND OF ENCOURAGEMENT THEY ANTICIPATE HIS VISIT WILL PROVIDE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN BRAZIL.

4. INITIAL PRESS COMMENTARY ALSO FAVORABLE BUT SOBER. RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL, FOR INSTANCE, EDITORIALIZED THAT VISIT INDICATES FIRST OF ALL THAT GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH BRAZIL AND US HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE COMMON RESPONSIBILITIES TO HISTORY WHICH TEMPORARY DISAGREEMENTS CANNOT NEGATE. "THE US," JORNAL SAID, "HAS DEVELOPED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BRAZILIAN REALITY AND BRAZIL, SENSITIVE TO THAT EVOLUTION, WILL NOT OPPOSE THE DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT GLOBAL THEMES, "I.E., HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION.

5. INITIAL PRESS SPECULATION ON IMPACT OF VISIT ON INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION FOCUSES ON ITS POTENTIAL FOR ACCELERATING, OR ENCOURAGING ACCELERATION OF, POLITICAL REFORMS REPORTEDLY BEING CONTEMPLATED BY GOVERNMENT.

6. SOME INITIAL INTERPRETIVE COLUMNS HAVE CHARACTERIZED ANNOUNCEMENT AS TRIUMPH OF BRAZILIAN DIPLOMACY--THIS VIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORTED BY FRONT-PAGE PHOTO OF FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA READING VISIT ANNOUNCEMENT--WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "VERY EXPRESSIVE AND IMPORTANT"--WITH CHESHIRE GRIN ON HIS FACE. THIS INTERPRETATION, HOWEVER, DERIVES FROM PREMISE THAT PRESIDENT ACCEPTED BRAZILIAN INVITATION.

7. ONE INTERPRETIVE O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO COLUMN CLAIMED FACT THAT VISIT WAS IN WORKS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR GOB TO DENOUNCE REMAINING AGREEMENTS WITH US IN MILITARY AREA SO AS TO "CLEAR DIPLOMATIC TERRAIN" FOR HIGH-LEVEL TALKS LATER IN YEAR. GOB PLAN WHICH SILVEIRA SOLD TO GEISEL, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO, WAS AIMED AT NEUTRALIZING POSSIBLE ADVERSE REACTION TO DENUNCIATIONS BY SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CARTER VISIT. PLAN ALMOST FOUNDERED, ACCORDING TO COLUMNIST, WHEN IRREPRESIBLE ARENA CHAMBER LEADER JOSE BENIFACIO, WHO WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON VISIT BEFORE DENUNCIATIONS, LEAKED NEWS OF IT TO PRESS.

8. SPECULATION ON WHETHER OR NOT SECRETARY VANCE WILL VISIT BRAZIL AS SCHEDULED LATE IN OCTOBER CONTINUES. CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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